

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor.	CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher.
RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor.	Editorial Rooms and Business Office 324-370 South 12th Street
Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class matter	
One Year - . . . \$1.00	Three Months - . . . 25c
Six Months -50	Single Copy -5c
12 Clubs of Five or more.	Sample Copies Free.
Per Year -75	Foreign Postage 12 Cents Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

DISCONTINUANCES—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year. Presentation Copies: Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to that effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 31, 08, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1908. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give OLD as well as NEW address.

ADVERTISING—Rates furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

A combination of wireless telegraphy and panicleless passengers is a happy one in case of a collision at sea.

A number of republican legislators in Oregon felt called upon to apologize and explain for voting as they had agreed to vote.

One is to be pardoned for looking askance upon the legislators who feel it incumbent upon them to apologize for keeping a solemn pledge made to the people who elected them.

Some of these days the west, which feeds the country, and the south, which clothes the country, will combine politically against that small section of the east which exploits the country.

Really, now, would it be surprising if somebody dug up a law providing for the punishment of flippant paragraphers who made caustic comment concerning ex-presidential hunting trips?

Wage earners who are inclined to complain because the promises of employment after the election of Taft are not kept should remember that the recruiting stations of the regular army are open some eight or nine hours a day. There are plenty of steady jobs in that line of employment for able bodied men.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

(Continued from Page 5)

Justice David Brewer said in his New York address:

"The two supreme dangers that menace a democratic state are despotism on the one hand and mob rule on the other. . . . The more constant and universal the voice of the people makes itself manifest, the nearer do we approach to an ideal government. The initiative and referendum make public opinion the controlling factor in the government. The more promptly and the more fully public officers carry into effect such public opinion, the more truly is government of the people realized."

Tories everywhere oppose the rule of the plain people. The claim is set up that they are incompetent. So said Charles I, so said Louis XVI. So say all Tories today. And yet the world's history bluntly tells the story of meanness, misery and fraud wherever power has been placed with the few, while peace, good will and joy have ever attended those peoples whose governments were equally participated in by all.

Letters From the People

George Watkins, Verdon, Neb.—The party can not hope, under Bryanism, to gain control of the federal government until the masses display more interest in exact and equal justice.

J. B. Van Court, Newton, Ia.—I can see but one way to bring about the reforms the people want, when the reformers are divided into four parties, as they are at present, and the plutes have but one party and all stand together and rule the people in the other four parties. Now to place this republic back into the hands and rule of the people to bring about the reforms they want, I suggest the following method: Let those four parties, democrat, populist, socialist and independent, meet together in a national convention and frame a platform on which they can all stand and form a new party, dropping all their names and adopt a new name and all as one party work together under the new name to bring about the reforms they need. I will suggest a name, viz., Jefferson and Lincoln party.

Dr. J. J. Morony, Breeze, Ill.—The democratic party can not hope to gain control of the federal government as long as the people remember the last democratic administration. It looks to me as though it will take some great crisis, such as slavery, to overcome the horde of officeholders, negro and old soldier vote, not to mention the slush fund. We are too honest in our advocacy of the people's cause in the sense we would not take advantage of the panic or anything else while our friends, the enemy, never let a chance pass to embarrass the party in power.

William P. Norton, Cold Water, Mich.—The future looks dark to me. It seems to me that if the republican party continues in power it will lead to a revolution.

A. De Bard, Arkansas City, Kan.—The people are not equal to dealing with these great questions of government. Popular government is still an experiment. I still remain your supporter and admirer.

T. P. Quinn, Chicago, Ill.—Mr. Bryan should take the initiative and call a conference of the friends of the democracy of Jefferson and Jackson and this conference should assemble in some central city of the union and include men from all over the nation selected by himself for their known devotion to the cause of human progress and they should discuss the very questions that we are now discussing and decide on a distinct and aggressive plan of organization that will drive out of the democratic party the corporation representatives, the blacklegs and thugs that now infest and control it in some of the great cities. If this can not be done, then a new party should be organized immediately on such lines as will best serve the interests of democrats who are now in the republican and other parties. "Desperate diseases require desperate remedies" and it should be remembered that "those who make half revolutions but dig their own graves." Fourth question, "Can the democratic party hope ever to gain control of the federal government?" Not as at present organized, for in the south it is largely controlled by the patrician class while in the north, east and west, particularly in the great cities its control is vested in the hands of corporation representatives and their hirelings, and the masses of the people knowing this to be true have lost confidence in it. It is the verdict of history that new parties must solve new questions, and the new and the great question of this day is the industrial question—how to give to the farmer and wageworker the product of their toil. The spirit of democracy can solve this question. The democratic party as now organized can not.

A. J. Doore, Greene, Ia.—Bryan could have been elected prior to October 23, but the trusts organized for his defeat. Fear alone beat him.

Walter F. Hobbs, Chicago, Ill.—The threat of a panic was used with telling effect in the great industrial centers.

W. A. Ramsey, Kilbourn, Wis.—Reformers should vote for principle and not for party. Too many people care more for party name than principle.

C. S. Collins, Little Rock, Ark.—Of course the struggle must go on just as in the centuries it has gone on in ever changing form. Those who are wronged by special privilege—the world-old instrument of the oppressor—can never forget that "As ashes can not be rekindled, so freedom departed from a people is never regained." The heritage received from our fathers is too precious to surrender even in

the face of present disheartening discouragements, but it is well to know and look the facts in the face. Without this, or if we deceive ourselves the problem of redemption will be the harder of solution by reason of lack of intelligent direction of efforts.

John Hatcher, Long Street, La.—The big stick and wealth on the one side and the misunderstanding by the masses and a misconception of conditions and issues did the work.

Dr. S. C. Thompson, Cedarville, Ill.—My opinion is that it was the recollection of Mr. Bryan's espousal of the issue of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent, etc. Had he bluntly and promptly answered that he would, if elected, maintain the single gold standard, that he was mistaken honestly in 1896 and 1900 in advocating the double standard, he would have allayed the fears of business men and a vast number of small capitalists like myself. He would have gained great credit for moral courage as did Mr. Cleveland with his famous "Tell the Truth" which gave the country a new thrill and suddenly transformed the wretched Halpin incident into a potent battle cry.

C. Somerville, McCook, Neb.—The course to be taken in the future is to continue the course we are now working upon—continue our organization and nominate honest men and on good, strong platforms. The democratic party can not hope to gain control as long as our government is in the hands of a few plutocrats. A rebellion alone will return to America her freedom.

R. P. Langley, Walter, Okla.—The real reform element in the republican party should be drawn away from the standpat wing.

A. A. Gingrich, Wichita, Kan.—You will see that the republican candidate for governor in Kansas ran on a democratic platform, state republican platform was more democratic than the democratic national platform. President-elect Taft run on the national republican platform and both state and national were on the same ticket, the national republican ticket. Now I contend in this case the solution of this mystery absurd and inconsistent as it is, is due to the name republican party. That name for nearly fifty years has been bred into that party until it has become second to nature, and it will be years before it can be bred out, for its strongholds, graft, political favoritisms, band wagons and big Indian, goes with the American people. P. T. Barnum learned long ago that the "people liked to be fooled," and Abraham Lincoln said you can fool all the people part of the time, and part of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time. In this we have hope. A Kansas horticulturist got it into his head a few years ago he could raise apples without seeds, he now has the seedless apples; this took time; the first, second, nor third year brought the object of his search, but by natural selections and perseverance he succeeded. So we are just as sure to win, but it must be along this line, with our faultless platform, the justice of our cause and the motives back of it. There is no other criterion. W. J. Bryan as a private citizen means more than W. J. Bryan, president. As president he would be a servant of the people, as a private citizen he is a leader of the people and a ruler, the indirect author of the Kansas republican platform and all the reforms that has given Roosevelt prominence, the quantitative theory, and railroad rates, etc. Bryan may not see his place of action, but he should know the good he has done, and the room for more of his work yet to be done. He is now in his sphere, go on with your work, title and rank cut no figure, deeds are what we want.

F. E. Stohr, Bolivar, N. Y.—To be successful democratic reformers must always be aggressive, standing by such reforms as contained in the 1908 platform, and rejecting bosses who deliver us as sheep to the slaughter. If we believe these reforms would better the conditions in this land, then we must not be like the children of Israel, who rejected their leader because they did not enter into the promised land of milk and honey as soon as they expected. Let us reject neither, but follow on until the time, when ripe, will allow right to triumph over might. Let us work in harmony, and that our views may be impressed on others, let us all become subscribers of that great paper which knows no fear from plutocracy, The Commoner.

W. E. Wallace, Burlington Junction, Mo.—The democratic party should be progressive. It should declare for government ownership of public utilities.